CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1   1.   A network comprising:

2   a server computer; and

3   a client computer, wherein the client computer accesses an authentication stack

4 during a power on self-test (POST) that enables authentication of the remote server.

1   2.   The network of claim 1 wherein the authentication stack comprises:

2   a control layer;

3   an interface layer;

4   a support layer; and

5   a hardware layer.

1   3.   The network of claim 2 wherein the control layer comprises:

2   a user authentication (UA) control applet; and

3   an application program interface (API) interface layer.

1   4.   The network of claim 3 wherein the control applet finds, interprets and enforces a

2 platform security policy that defines how to handle security related events.

1   5.   The network of claim 4 wherein the security related event is remote local area

2 network (LAN) wakeup event.

1   6.   The network of claim 4 wherein the security related event is resume from suspend

2 event.

1   7.   The network of claim 4 wherein the security related event is an AT attachment 3

2 (ATA-3) event.

1 8.   The network of claim 2 wherein the interface layer comprises:

2   a UA API; and

3   a storage API.

1 9.   The network of claim 8 wherein the UA API defines high-level function calls for

2 user authentication.

1 10.   The network of claim 2 wherein the support layer comprises:

2   an authentication support component; and

3   a storage component.

1 11.   The network of claim 10 wherein the support layer is developed by a service

2 provider.

1 12.   The network of claim 11 wherein the support layer translates API calls received

2 from the interface layer into proprietary calls of the service provider.

1 13.   The network of claim 10 wherein the support layer receives API function calls

2 from the control applet and returns the appropriate information.

1 14.   The network of claim 10 wherein the storage component comprises a storage

2 plug-in.

1 15.   The network of claim 10 wherein the authentication support component

2 comprises:

3   fingerprint plug-in;

4   a smart card plug-in;

5   a universal serial bus (USB) token plug-in; and

6   a remote boot plug-in.

1   16.   A method comprising:

2   commencing a power on self-test a computer system;

3   authenticating a boot server by receiving a request from the boot server to access

4   an authentication stack at the computer system; and

5   downloading boot code from the boot server at the computer system.

1   17.   The method of claim 16 further comprising:

2   authenticating the boot code; and

3   executing the boot code at the computer system.

1   18.   The method of claim 17 further comprising passing control of the computer

2   system to a local operating system.

1   19.   A method comprising:

2   receiving a request at a boot server from a computer system to download boot

3   code to the computer system;

4   accessing an authentication stack at the computer system; and

5   authenticating the boot server at a service provider server.

1   20.   The method of claim 19 wherein authenticating the boot server at a service

2   provider server comprises accessing a remote plug-in at the service provider server.

1   21.   The method of claim 19 further comprising downloading the boot code to the

2   computer system.

1   22.   A method comprising:

2   awakening at a computer system;

3   authenticating a management server by receiving a request from the management

4   server to access an authentication stack at the computer system; and

5   downloading boot code from the boot server at the computer system.

1 23. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

2   receiving wake-up packets at the computer system from the management server

3 prior to the computer system being awakened; and

1 24. The method of claim 22 further comprising:

2   receiving management services at the computer system from the management

3 server; and

4   passing control of the computer system to a local operating system.

1 25. A method comprising:

2   transmitting wake up packets to a computer system from a management server;

3   receiving an authentication response at the management server from the computer

4 system;

5   accessing an authentication stack at the computer system; and

6   authenticating the management server at a service provider server.

1 26. The method of claim 25 wherein authenticating the management server at a

2 service provider server comprises accessing a remote plug-in at the service provider

3 server.

1 27. The method of 25 further comprising executing management services at the

2 computer system.

1 28. An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that

2 embody a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions, when executed

3 by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4   commence a power on self-test a computer system;

5   authenticate a boot server by receiving a request from the boot server to access an

6   authentication stack at the computer system; and

7   download boot code from the boot server at the computer system.

1   29.   The article of manufacture of claim 28 wherein the program of instructions, when

2   executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to:

3   authenticate the boot code; and

4   execute the boot code at the computer system.

1   30.   The article of manufacture of claim 28 wherein the program of instructions, when

2   executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to pass control of the

3   computer system to a local operating system.

1   31.   An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that

2   embody a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions, when executed

3   by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4   receive a request at a boot server from a computer system to download boot code

5   to the computer system;

6   access an authentication stack at the computer system; and

7   authenticate the boot server at a service provider server.

1   32.   The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein causing the processing unit to

2   authenticate the boot server at a service provider server further causes the processing unit

3   to access a remote plug-in at the service provider server.

1   33.   The article of manufacture of claim 31 wherein the program of instructions, when

2   executed by a processing unit, further causes the processing unit to download the boot

3   code to the computer system.

1   34.   An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that

2   embody a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions, when executed

3   by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4   awaken a computer system;

5   authenticate a management server by receiving a request from the management

6   server to access an authentication stack at the computer system; and

7   download boot code from the boot server at the computer system.

1   35.   The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein causing the processing unit to

2   authenticate the boot server at a service provider server further causes the processing unit

3   to receive wake-up packets at the computer system from the management server prior to

4   the computer system being awakened.

1   36.   The article of manufacture of claim 34 wherein causing the processing unit to

2   authenticate the boot server at a service provider server further causes the processing unit

3   to:

4   receive management services at the computer system from the management

5   server; and

6   pass control of the computer system to a local operating system.

1   37.   An article of manufacture including one or more computer readable media that

2   embody a program of instructions, wherein the program of instructions, when executed

3   by a processing unit, causes the processing unit to:

4   transmit wake up packets to a computer system from a management server;

5   receive an authentication response at the management server from the computer

6   system;

7   access an authentication stack at the computer system; and

8   authenticate the management server at a service provider server.

1   38.   The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein causing the processing unit to

2   authenticate the management server at a service provider server further causes the

3   processing unit to access a remote plug-in at the service provider server.

1   39.   The article of manufacture of claim 37 wherein causing the processing unit to

2   authenticate the boot server at a service provider server further causes the processing unit

3   to execute management services at the computer system.